(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Review Committee has been engaged in obtaining information from various sources, including the State Governments.

American Pressure on India to SIGN NPT

307. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen press, reports highlighting renewed American pressure on India to sign NPT?

(b) if so, what diplomatic efforts have been made in cooperation with the members of NAM in general and SAARC in particular to evolve common policy on NPT?

(c) whether any diplomatic initiatives with the permanent members of the security council have been taken in this regard so far?

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether government have taken China into confidence on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) India's consistant and principled position on the NPT is that it will not sign the NPT since it is a discriminatory treaty which creates a permanent division between the nuclear "haves" and "have-nots". India has reiterated this well known position in all relevant multilateral fora and during bilateral discussions with various countries including those which are permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Set Back in INDO-US Relations

308. SHRIMATI CHANDRA-KALA PANDEY:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-US relations have suffered any major set back recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Statement by Former Prime Minister of Quebec

309. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement by the former Prime Minister of Quebec that the recent referendum on the proposal for the independence of the province has been affected by votes cast by ethnic minorities;'

(b) whether such a statement has created considerable apprehension in the minds of Indians settled in Canada; and

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Canadian authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Government do not consider it necessary to do so as the Government of Canada does not suport the statement. In fact, the statement of the former Premier of Quebec, Jacques Parizeau has been condemned by the Prime Minister of Canada, himself a Quebecker, and by other Provincial Premiers. The present Premier of